

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1-66. (Cancelled)
67. (Withdrawn) A method for testing a compound for its ability to act as an antagonist of Fc receptor comprising:
- a) producing a recombinant soluble polypeptide with Fc binding ability, wherein said recombinant soluble polypeptide comprises:
 - i) an Ig binding domain of said Fc receptor or a fragment thereof; and
 - ii) a spacer for spacing said recombinant soluble polypeptide from a solid surface.
 - b) contacting said compound with said recombinant soluble polypeptide;
 - c) contacting a mixture of said compound and said recombinant soluble polypeptide with an immune complex;
 - d) measuring the degree to which said compound inhibits binding of said immune complex to said recombinant soluble polypeptide in (c); and
 - e) identifying the compound which inhibits binding of said recombinant soluble polypeptide with said immune complex as an antagonist of said Fc receptor.
68. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 67, wherein said Fc receptor or fragment thereof is capable of binding to immunoglobulins selected from the group consisting of IgA, IgD, IgE, IgG and IgM.
69. (Withdrawn) A method according to Claim 67, wherein the recombinant soluble polypeptide is a fusion protein.
70. (Withdrawn) A method according to Claim 67, wherein said recombinant polypeptide is labelled with a tracer selected from the group consisting of

radiolabels, reporting enzymes, fluorigenic labels, beads labelled therewith and erythrocytes.

71. (Withdrawn) A method according to Claim 67, wherein said recombinant polypeptide is attached to a solid support.
72. (Withdrawn) A method according to Claim 67, wherein the compound identified as an inhibitor of said Fc receptor functions by binding to the Fc receptor, or by binding to an immune complex at the site where the Fc receptor binds.
73. (Withdrawn) An antagonist compound isolated by the method of Claim 67.
74. (Currently Amended) An isolated polypeptide with Fc binding ability, wherein the polypeptide comprises an Fc binding component comprising an extracellular region of a native FcγRII receptor and a fusion component selected from the group consisting of an immunoglobulin, human serum albumin (HSA), Fc receptor, complement receptor, cytokine receptor, dextran and polyethylene glycol, and wherein the polypeptide is characterized in that:
- (i) the Fc binding component retains biological activity and
 - (ii) the polypeptide has greater serum half life compared to the Fc binding component alone..
75. (Cancelled)
76. (Currently Amended) The polypeptide of claim 74-75 wherein the fusion component is an immunoglobulin.
77. (Previously presented) The polypeptide of claim 74 which is soluble.
78. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a polypeptide according to claim 74 together with a pharmaceutically appropriate carrier or diluent.
79. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a polypeptide according to claim 74-75 together with a pharmaceutically appropriate carrier or diluent.
80. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a polypeptide according to claim 76 together with a pharmaceutically appropriate carrier or diluent.
81. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a polypeptide according to claim 77 together with a pharmaceutically appropriate carrier or diluent.
82. (Withdrawn) A method of treatment of a disease where an excess of immunoglobulin is implicated as the causative agent of the disease, said method

comprising administering an effective amount of the polypeptide according to claim 74 to a patient.

83. (Withdrawn) A method of treatment of a disease where an excess of immunoglobulin is implicated as the causative agent of the disease, said method comprising administering an effective amount of the polypeptide according to claim 75 to a patient.

84. (Withdrawn) A method of treatment of a disease where an excess of immunoglobulin is implicated as the causative agent of the disease, said method comprising administering an effective amount of the polypeptide according to claim 76 to a patient.

85. (Withdrawn) A method of treatment of a disease where an excess of immunoglobulin is implicated as the causative agent of the disease, said method comprising administering an effective amount of the polypeptide according to claim 77 to a patient.

86. (Withdrawn) A method of treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, said method comprising administering an effective amount of the polypeptide according to claim 74 to a patient.

87. (Withdrawn) A method of treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, said method comprising administering an effective amount of the polypeptide according to claim 75 to a patient.

88. (Withdrawn) A method of treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, said method comprising administering an effective amount of the polypeptide according to claim 76 to a patient.

89. (Withdrawn) A method of treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, said method comprising administering an effective amount of the polypeptide according to claim 77 to a patient.

90. (Withdrawn) A method of removing immunoglobulin from a body fluid, said method comprising combining an effective amount of the polypeptide according to claim 74 with the body fluid.

91. (Withdrawn) A method of removing immunoglobulin from a body fluid, said method comprising combining an effective amount of the polypeptide according to claim 75 with the body fluid.
92. (Withdrawn) A method of removing immunoglobulin from a body fluid, said method comprising combining an effective amount of the polypeptide according to claim 76 with the body fluid.
93. (Withdrawn) A method of removing immunoglobulin from a body fluid, said method comprising combining an effective amount of the polypeptide according to claim 77 with the body fluid.
94. (Withdrawn) An antibody or fragment thereof, wherein said antibody or fragment specifically binds to the polypeptide of claim 74.
95. (New) The polypeptide of claim 74, wherein the fusion component is HSA.
96. (New) The polypeptide of claim 74, wherein the polypeptide is HSA:Fc γ R1I.